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## **Committee Meeting Minutes: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2.0 p.m.**

*Held via Zoom*

### **1. Present:**

Steve Jarvis (Chairman), Bob Alderdice (Treasurer), Christine Smith (Webmaster), David Nicklin (ATO), Peter Milewski (Secretary), Perry Crickmere (Pembroke), Lee Collier (Haverfordwest), Nicky Hancock (Tenby), Mike Reed (Carmarthen).  
Apologies were received from Tony Disley and Tony Haworth.  
Mike Reed left the meeting at about 2.40, during the Treasurer's report.

### **2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 31<sup>st</sup> August were circulated by email prior to the meeting. They were passed by general assent as a fair record.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

Keith Davison. Bob has now spoken to Keith who would be interested in re-joining the Committee but not until after his retirement in April 2024. Keith had suggested that owing to the closure of several clubs, there may be a place for a non-representative member.

Masterpoint fees. The large rise, from 25p to 40p has been the subject of some complaint but it was pointed out that the WBU subscription revenue has suffered a large decrease owing to the fall in membership.

Porthcawl. See Secretary's report.

**Action: none**

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Brian Griffiths: Brian's recent death was noted. He was a much respected doyen of the Haverfordwest club since its inception, and its emeritus President for many years.

Porthcawl: online congress. Another cut down version has been set up by Sarah Amos on IBEX for 18-19 November 2023. It consists of a teams event on Saturday and pairs on Sunday. A poster with requests to circulate has been emailed to Western area members,



Welsh area secretaries, representatives of the Irish and Scottish national organizations, Somerset Contract Bridge Association and Hereford Bridge Association. Also Tony H has placed it on the WBU site.

Porthcawl: hoped-for resurrection of face to face congress November 2024: Peter has spoken again to Oliver Cowan who hasn't done the research yet, but is expecting to start on this within the next week or two. There has been discovered an incentive for succeeding. Peter showed the meeting an old poster from the first congress in March 1949. Terence Reese won the teams. Therefore 2024 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Porthcawl congress. Oliver has been shown the poster too. Peter feels it would be splendid if the congress could be re-started with a fanfare about the anniversary and publication of the old poster.

Porthcawl Bridge Club: Unfortunately the membership has decided to close the club because of falling attendances. The Rest Bay non-affiliated club is taking some of the members, and Bridgend others. David mentioned that the WWBA may be able to purchase the club's dealing machine, and there was general agreement that they could be offered £1000 for this.

Enquiry from Tony Haworth: Tony wonders whether he should no longer attend the committee once the Porthcawl club's WBU subscription has lapsed, and there was general agreement that Tony should be invited to remain as a co-opted member in view of his invaluable contributions to the association's work.

Non-area entries to Vince Bevan Pairs: Peter has told several applicants from outside the Western area that they can enter as long as they pay a membership subscription, because there is precedent for this. It was agreed that this membership should be £2.

**Action: David**

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Accounts: Bob has circulated his report and there were no significant problems identified. He has now transferred over £10000 to a RBS Business Reserve account giving 1.5% interest. There is another account giving 4% interest, but the WWBA turnover is not enough to make it eligible for that one.

Total reserves currently £23661.59p.

Tumble have not yet sent their bill for the recent Swiss Pairs.

Steve has transferred £629 to the WWBA account that accrued in the Letterston club account from running a BBO event during the pandemic, following the closure of the club. Bob expressed his appreciation.

Perry Spickett and President's Cup: Bob reminded us that the 2024 event is due to be held in the Western Area, and this will entail significant expense, probably over £2000. Lee has investigated the Pavilion on the Haverfordwest show ground that has been refurbished and is now an attractive venue for the event, with good facilities, reasonable



prices (£400 for a weekend hiring), a nearby Premier Inn and plenty of accommodation locally. There was general assent to going ahead with this idea, as soon as there is confirmation of the date (probably the same weekend as last year, i.e. second weekend in July).

**Action: when date confirmed by WBU**

## 6. ATO Report

Perry Spickett and President's Cup: see above.

Equipment: See above re potential purchase of dealing machine for the WWBA. No response so far from Sophie Cunningham of East Wales, following information that they have boardsets to spare. There are currently three boardsets available, they require bar-coded packs for the hoped-for dealing machine. David will enquire of Janet Richards whether she is still willing to deal for payment of £5 per boardset. A laptop is still required. Perry recommended a Dell laptop for about £300, as the one purchased for the Pembroke club has proved excellent, it includes two USB sockets, and an Ethernet one suitable for network connections should they be required.

Vince Bevan: Request for all applications to be in by noon on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, in order to facilitate the table transport.

**Action: David**

## 7. Webmaster's report:

Porthcawl club website: There is useful educational material on the site which will lapse on the next Bridgewebs renewal date. Would like this material on the WWBA site. Will liaise with Tony H about this, as he wrote much of the material.

**Action: Christine**

## 8. Chairman's report:

Steve gave a report from the recent WBU Management Committee meeting.

Arrangements for the Premier League, Lady Milne and Teltscher trials were confirmed.

The WBU IT systems are in disarray. There are three servers and no control. The system is thought to be a massive risk. David Parry standing for the EBU board has proposed an E&W bridge union with Wales and Counties having autonomy. This would solve the Masterpoints and IT server problem. However there are questions around the cost as EBU have now dropped subscriptions and rely on a Pay to Play system. The MC approved of the union idea but wanted to ensure continuation of nation status.

Peter registered his approval of the idea.

There had been complimentary remarks in the MC about Oliver Cowan's work.



Correspondence from WWBA about Llandrindod Wells was noted. The NTO said it was difficult because of need to store tables etc. He suggested hybrid online/f2f events. The comment was made that online participants would have an advantage, with legal access to their own system cards.

**Action: none**

**9. AOB:**

Lee informed the committee that Nicky is regularly teaching two to four students at the Pembrokeshire college on Mondays. Members registered their approval.

**Action: none**

**10. Next Meeting (on Zoom): Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 2.0 p.m.**